



The HEAL Act

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Introduction

- Healthy Environment for All (HEAL)
- Passed in March 2021 by the state
- A historic step
- Agencies covered
- New office created at Ecology

SB 5141 - 2021-22

Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.

Sponsors: [Saldaña](#), [Lovelett](#), [Carlyle](#), [Das](#), [Frockt](#), [Hasegawa](#), [Hunt](#), [Keiser](#), [Kuderer](#), [Lias](#), [Nobles](#), [Pedersen](#), [Rolfes](#), [Stanford](#)

Bill Status-at-a-Glance ⓘ
See [Bill History](#) for complete details on the bill

As of Friday, September 17, 2021 10:40 AM

Current Version:	Current Status:
Engrossed 2nd Substitute - E2SSB 5141	C 314 L 21

Where is it in the process?

	Introduced	In Committee	On Floor Calendar	Passed Chamber
In the Senate:	●	●	●	●
In the House:	●	●	●	●
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After Passage:	●	●	●	●
	Passed Legislature	On Governor's Desk	Governor Acted	Session Law

[Go to documents](#)

What is the HEAL Act?

- Remedy the effects of policies and practices that led to environmental health disparities in communities and improve the health of all people in WA.
- Prevent and address environmental health disparities in the administration of ongoing and new environmental programs, including allocation of funds.
- Reduce exposure to environmental hazards within Indian country.
- Track and measure the accomplishments of state agency environmental justice implementation.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies.

Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.



What the Act entails

- Creates an Environmental Justice Council and Interagency Workgroup
 - Forum
 - Environmental justice guidance, identification, measure tracking
- Agencies required to create or strengthen:
 - Environmental justice implementation plan
 - Community engagement plan
 - Tribal consultation framework

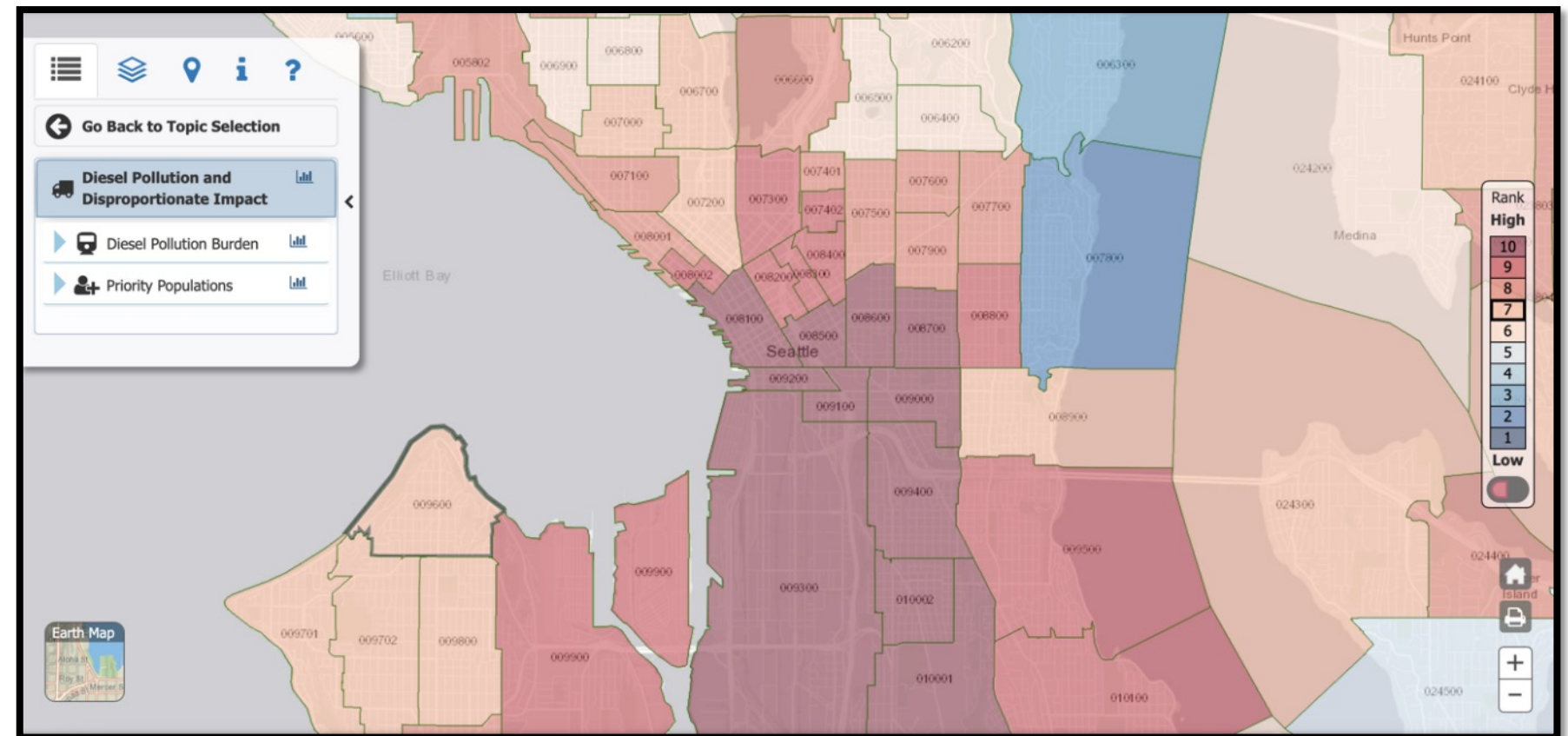


What the Act requires

- Strategic plan requirements
 - Include goals, actions
 - Measures to track and measure accomplishments
 - Methods to provide equitable access/ensure nondiscrimination
 - Strategies to ensure compliance with existing federal and state laws related to EJ
- Actions requiring EJ assessments
 - Undergoing significant legislative rule development
 - Adopting or developing new grant or loan programs
 - Designing or awarding capital projects, grants, or loans of \$12 million or more
 - Designing or awarding transportation projects, grants, or loans of \$15 million or more
 - Developing agency request legislation

What the Act covers

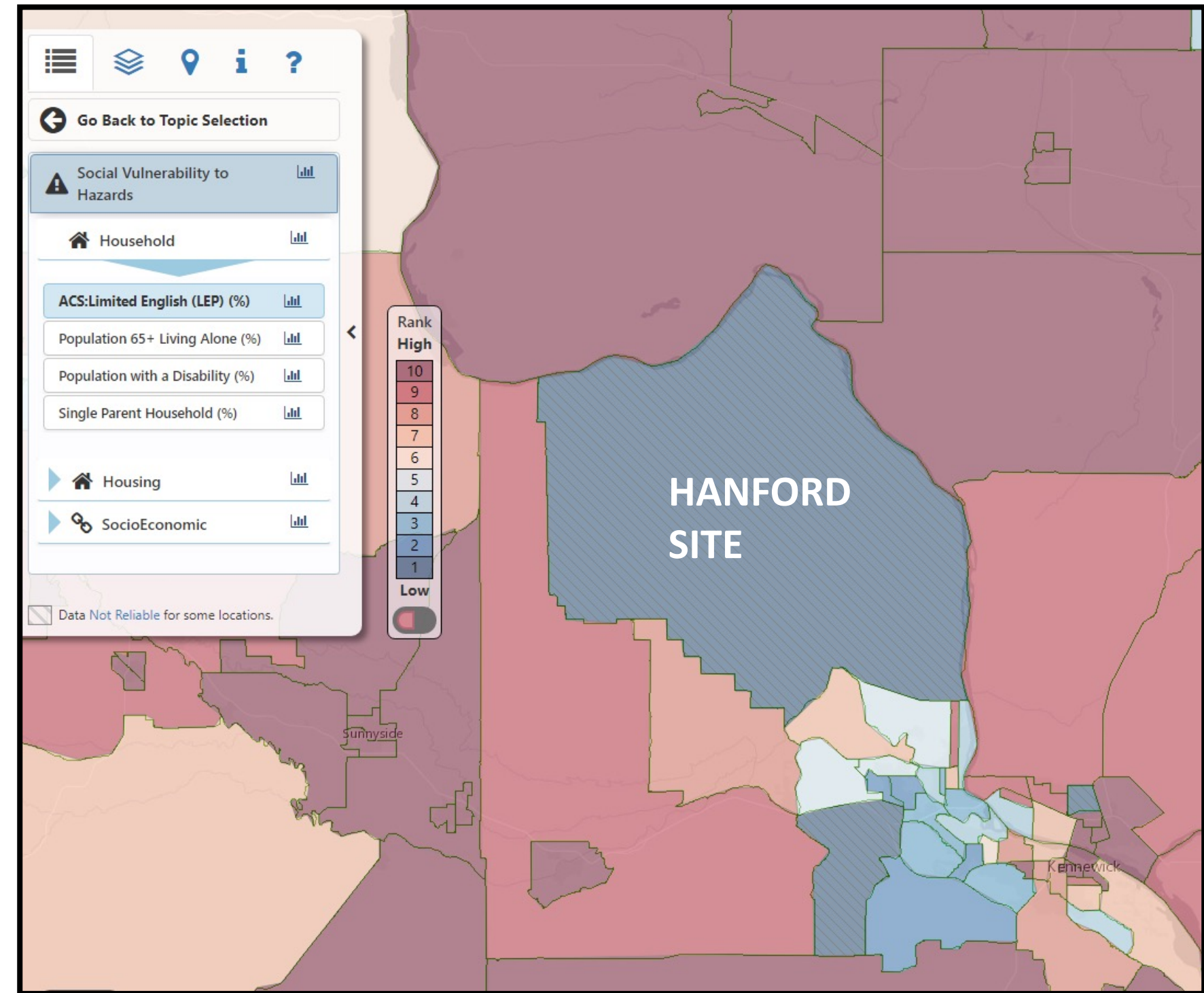
- Washington Health Disparities Map
 - HEAL directs agencies to use cumulative environmental health impact analysis
 - May include use of this Department of Health Map
 - What it covers
 - What other agencies are required to do



Screenshot of the Washington Health Disparities Map, showing diesel pollution and disproportionate impact.

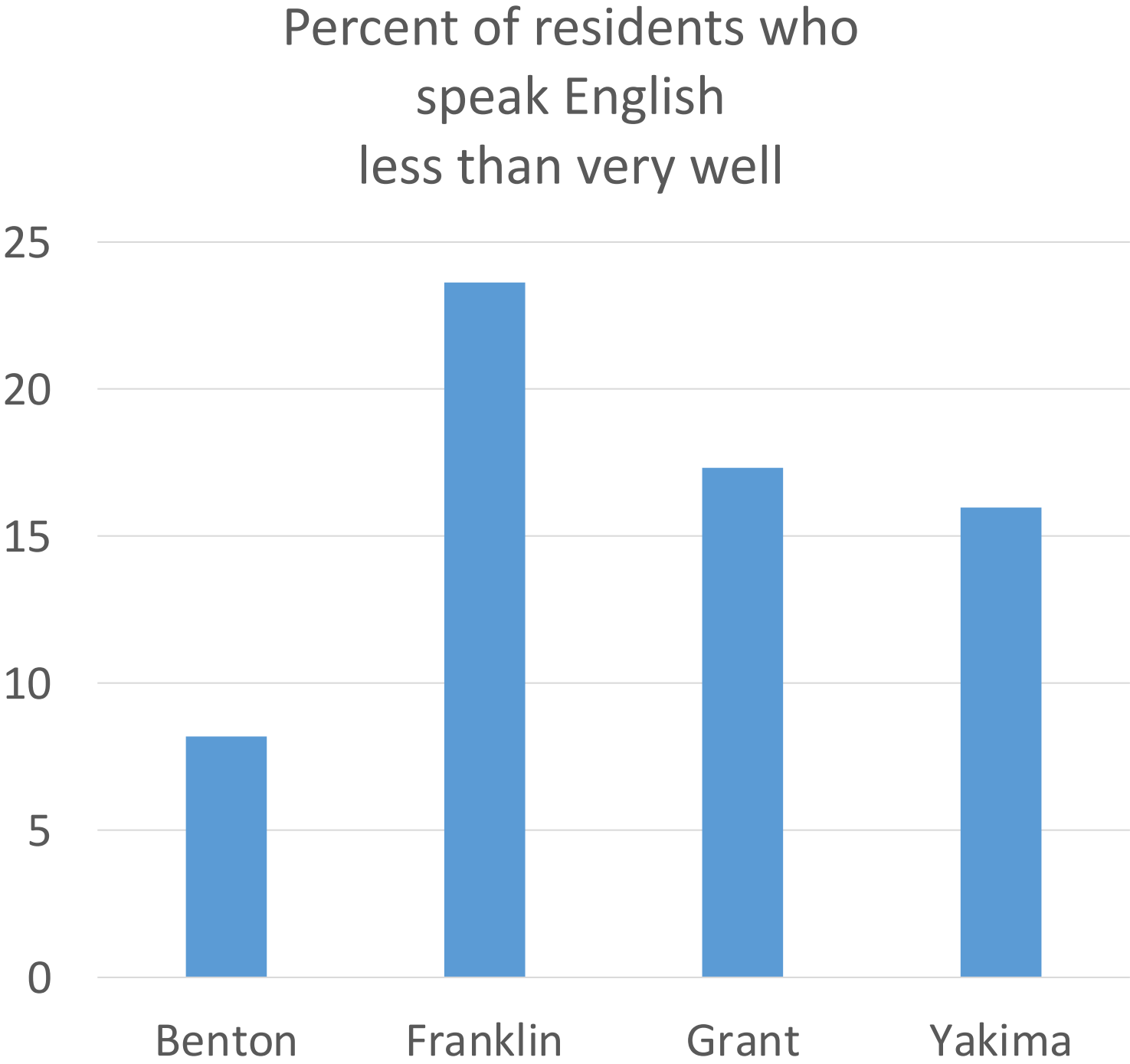
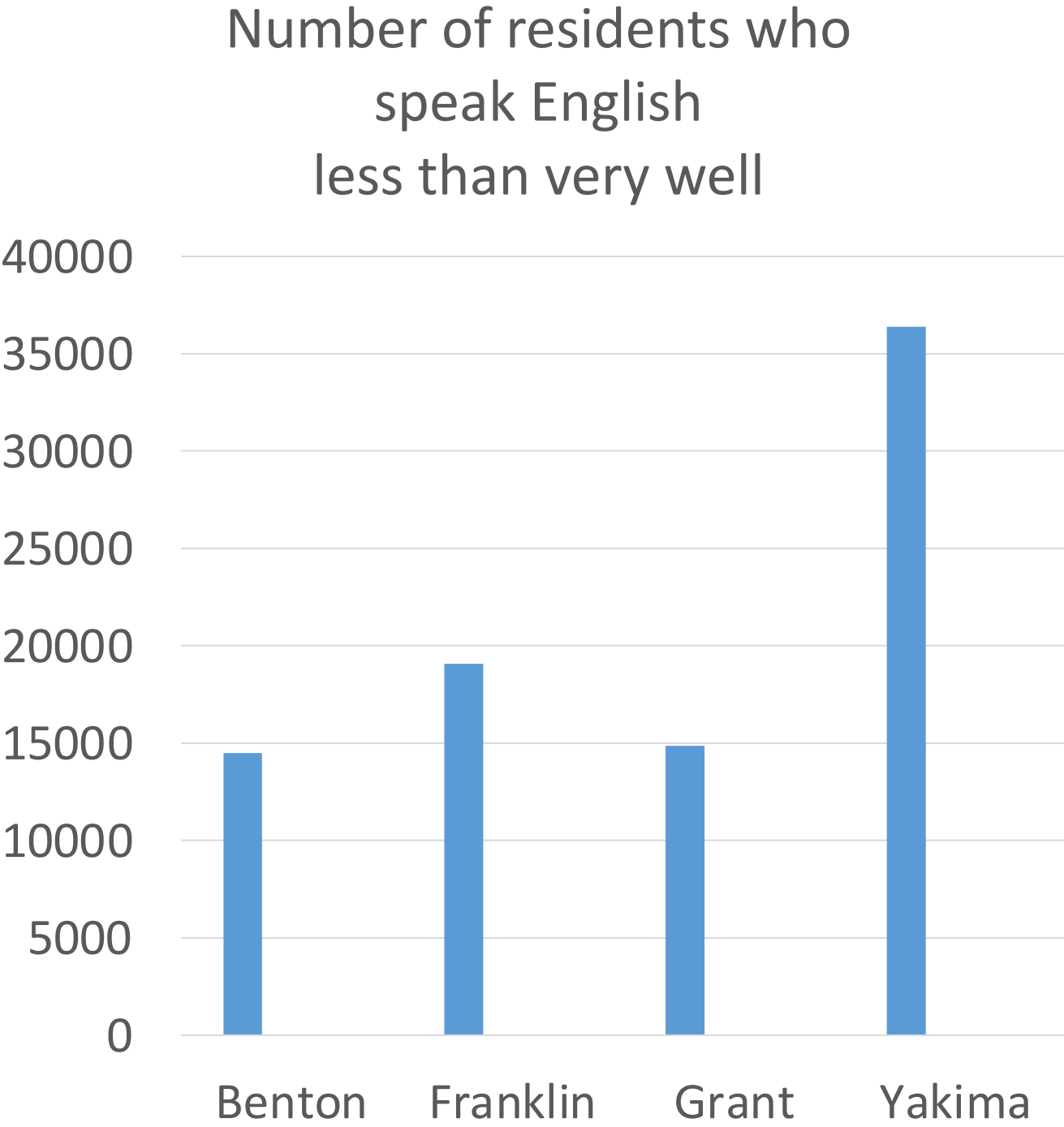
What does this mean at Hanford?

- Hanford is unique as surrounding residents should not have direct contact or exposure unless there is an accident.
 - Should surrounding populations be made aware of the potential for a release?
- What boundaries should we use to evaluate?
- Who should our partners include?
- How far should we consider the impact when addressing where the waste will go?
 - Focus on distance?
 - Potential distribution (air release?)
- Do we need to address EJ issues for transportation of waste?
 - What communities are impacted between here and Carlsbad, NM?



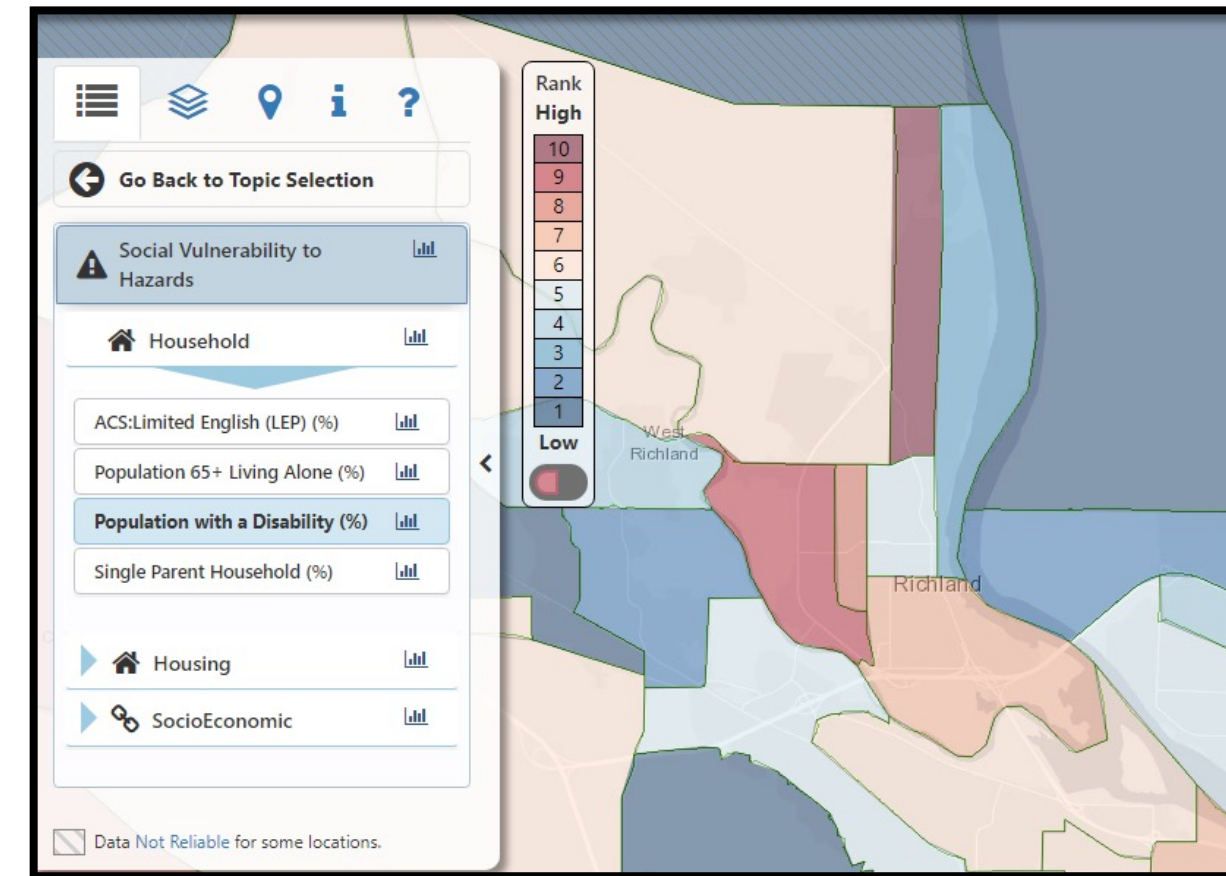
Screenshot of the Washington Health Disparities Map, highlighting Limited English proficiency

Language of neighbors

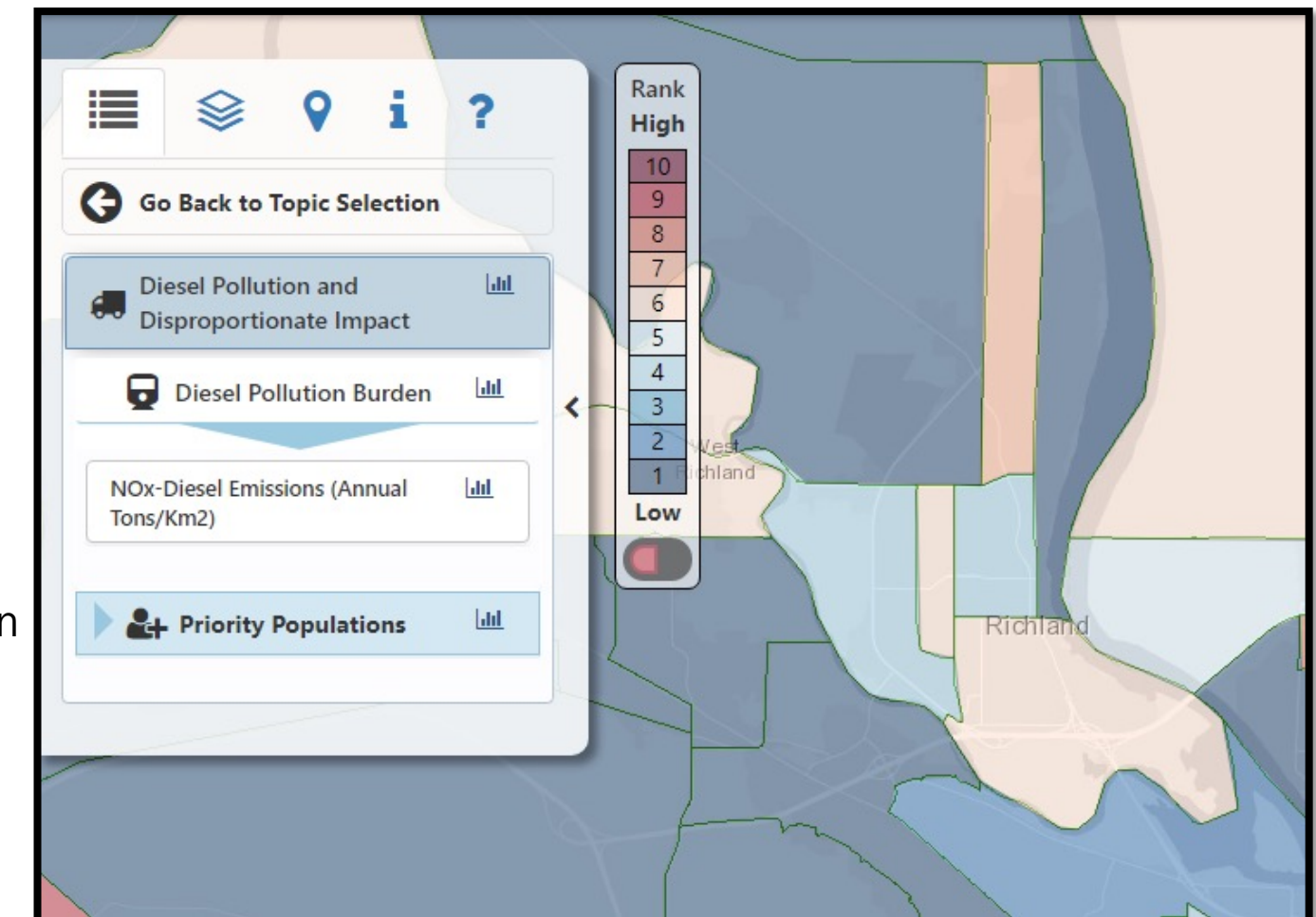


What other burdens may exist?

- Within central Richland there is a large population living with a disability. If those people need to walk or roll to the nearest grocer, they may be exposed to increased diesel emissions.
- Many of whom live in an area disproportionately impacted by diesel.
 - There is no industry in the highlighted tracts, so the source of emissions must be traffic – the likely cause of which is Hanford commuters.



Screenshot of the Washington Health Disparities Map, highlighting population with a disability



Screenshot of the Washington Health Disparities Map, highlighting population exposed to diesel pollution

Evaluating EJ issues around Hanford

- The NWP will work with stakeholder groups and agency EJ leads to determine an area in which to address Hanford related language access for materials.
- What is our ultimate goal of multilingual information sharing and outreach?
- Decisions be made in partnership with WA DOH?
- What stakeholder groups should we include?
- What is required?
- What are best practices?
- Should area of outreach be based on likelihood of release (all directions, predominant direction, etc.)

Best practices to implement

- Include notice that translation is available *at the top of* a website or printed piece. (Language regarding requests accommodation or translation is usually at the bottom of a notice, or website, often in smaller print.)
- Inclusion – and accessibility - are not solely race or language related. We should be making certain our meetings and materials are accessible to persons with disabilities.
 - Always offer closed-captioning during online meetings.
 - Always have interpreters at meetings.
- Bring back annual in-person events of a more general informational nature
 - Offer childcare for in-person meetings of a general public interest.
 - Have Spanish-speaking greeters and translation at in person meetings.
- Ensure capacity for translation in case of a Hanford emergency so updates to agency websites and social media are in both English and Spanish. (Consider Russian)
- Ecology has been updating our website and documents to work properly with accessibility tools.
- Ensure perimeter signage is in Spanish as well as English.



Ongoing and additional actions to take

- Educate the public to encourage and enable public participation.
- Continue outreach to schools with large LatinX student population.
- Educate students about STEM careers at Hanford.
- Initiate outreach and develop partnership with Heritage University.
- Submit stories to try and get “earned media” in Tu Decides, a dual language newspaper.
- Deliver outreach presentations to the Hispanic Chamber, LULAC, Immigrant Rights Coalition, UFW. We should ask what is important to them.
- Purchase display ads in the Spanish language papers, or run an ad on Spanish-language radio inviting people to join our listserv - this would require us to ensure we translate subsequent notices.
- Investigate distribution of emergency calendars and tone alert radios – who is responsible for ensuring households have them?
- Partner with USDOE & Ben Franklin Transit to move people from single occupancy vehicles (Currently, the biggest threat from Hanford is air pollution from several thousand workers a day driving through a residential area.)



Questions?

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